

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1964

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1964

Councillor P. L. Jacklin
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1964 - 1965

COUNCILLORS:

MRS. E. A. KING, J. P.
Chairman of the Council

G. W. STEVENS
Vice-Chairman of the Council

Mrs. M. E. Campbell-Ferguson

H. G. Haddock

F. N. Clarke, J.P.

P. L. Jacklin

B. W. M. Elcox

G. W. Shakespeare

R. J. Gavin

F. J. Smith

P. L. Gray

E. A. Thompson

OFFICERS:

V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,
Clerk of the Council

JACK WILD, M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E.,
Engineer and Surveyor and Public Health Officer



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To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry Circular 1/65 I present an annual report for the year 1964.

For the year the local death rate (10.6) again falls below the national figure (11.3). The live birth rate (20.9) is again above the national figure. The local infant mortality rate is seen to be around the national rate but the stillbirth rate for the year was less favourable.

There was no local incidence during the year of serious infectious disease.

I would acknowledge in the preparation of this report the assistance of Mr. J. Wild, your Engineer and Surveyor, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary conditions. Also I would thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Victor R. Walker

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1965.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,637
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1964							6,690
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1964 (estimated)	..						1,989
Rateable Value (1st April, 1964)	..	..	..			..	£370,449
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1964/6)	..	..	..			..	£1,520

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1964

					Royston Urban District	Comparable Rate for England and Wales
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	135	65	70		
	(Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		
		<u>140</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>73</u>		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	20.9	18.4
Illegitimate Live Births per						
cent of total live births	..	..	..	3.6%		
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	5	4	1		
	(Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>		
Rate per 1,000 total						
(live and still) births	..	..	..	..	34.5	16.3
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>		<u>145</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>74</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>71</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>39</u>		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	10.6	11.3
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>	(Under 1 week	2	2	-		
	(At 1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-		
	(At 4 - 52 weeks	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>		
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>		
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>						
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..				21.4	20.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate						
live births	.. ..	..	..	14.8		
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000						
illegitimate live births	.. ..	..	..	200.0		
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 4 weeks						
per 1,000 total live births)	.. ..	..	..	14.3		13.8
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under						
1 week per 1,000 total live births)	.. ..	..	..	14.3		
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths and						
deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000						
total live and still births)	.. ..	..	..	48.3		
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)						
Number of deaths	.. ..	..	..	None		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	.. ..	..	..	0.0	0.0	0.25

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year local population again showed an increase (90) on the previous year. Live births (140) were 18 more than for 1963 and local deaths (71) numbered 3 less than the previous year.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Lee Valley Water Company by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area, pending the laying and connecting up of the piped supply.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

The Lee Valley Water Company reported on Bacteriological and Chemical examinations of the water during the year. 215 Bacteriological and 15 Chemical samples of water were examined and all conformed to the standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Negotiations with regard to the discharge of Trade Effluents from Industrial Works were continued between the firms concerned and the Consulting Engineers.

The Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a draft scheme for the provision of a new Sewage Disposal Works and this is awaited for submission to the Minister.

Sixty two new houses built by private enterprise were connected to the sewage system during the year.

There are thirty-nine houses in the district which have cesspool or septic tank drainage. Cesspools are emptied once a year by the Council free of charge, and a machine for this purpose was purchased during the year.

The agreement for use of land at the Pond for irrigation beds was not renewed by the farmer and the Council were forbidden entry onto this land. This has given rise to flooding of land adjacent and consequent complaints. Since entry is forbidden no remedial measures can be carried out.

The offending trade effluent which prevented proper use of the irrigation beds has been largely cleared of solids at the factory and this has improved matters although only one bed was able to be dried. This has been thoroughly cleaned and refilled to test drainage time.

The sludge beds were completely reconstructed with a proper drainage system and sand surface, and a great improvement in sludge drying has been noticed.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £4,822. 0 s. 0 d. (net).

A once weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, the refuse collectors working on an incentive bonus scheme which proved the work could be done well within the week, although owing to the increasing number of bins brought into use some changes may have to be made in the near future.

The search for a new site for a tip was unsuccessful and tipping continued on the existing site.

Maintenance of the tip was continued and advantage taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatment against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme worked satisfactorily during the year and the following work was carried out:-

Total number of private premises treated	..	..	49
Total number of local authority premises treated,			
including tip	..	..	15
Total number of business premises treated	..	..	15
Total number of sewer manholes treated	..	..	100
Total number of premises treated under annual contract			1

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 120.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	34
Under the Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	62
Under the Factory Acts	..	..	..	..	..	16
Prevention of Infectious Diseases			..	..	..	4
Milk and Dairies Orders	..	..	..	..	..	5
Food Shops and Stores	..	..	..	..	..	136
Bakehouse Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	14
Prevention of Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	28
House Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	17
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	..			..	..	8
Rats and Mice Destruction	..	..	..	..	..	40
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	-
Miscellaneous Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	80

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	-
Informal Notices served or other informal action taken						30
Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	5
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action					..	3
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action					..	4

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	..	..	..	214
Plans and applications withdrawn	..	..	..	13
Plans and applications approved	..	..	..	159
Plans and applications disapproved	..	..	..	24
Plans and applications decisions pending	..	..	..	18

SECTION D

Housing

Four flats were erected by the Council during the year.

Sixty-four new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

Three properties were approved during the year for Improvement Grants under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, eight applications for Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings were approved.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

One Conditional Approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1962, was granted for the siting of a caravan and one Site Licence was issued in respect of a single unit on an isolated site, in addition to those existing.

The provision of a Municipal Caravan Site was further considered by the Council and site layouts were prepared to fit in with possible housing development in the future.

Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

SECTION E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling foodstuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

					<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	..	..	..	..	6	2	-
Grocers	..	..	..	..	16	3	2
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	6	2	5
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	3	-	1
Cafes ..	..	..	..	..	5	-	-
Canteens	..	..	..	..	6	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	2	2	-
Dealers in Sweets	..	..	..	..	14	-	-
Dealers in Cakes	..	..	..	..	10	2	2
Dealers in Bread	..	..	..	..	5	-	-
Beer, etc. (Off Licence)	..	..	..	..	4	-	-
Wines and Spirits, etc. (Off Licence)	..	..	..	..	3	-	-
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	9	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	..	..	..	..	1	-	-

Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 15 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, together with 4 selling from vans not subject to registration in this district.

Fish Fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this Area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Barratt & Company Limited of Wood Green, London.

Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealers Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Inspection of Registered Food Premises

During the year 136 inspections were made to the premises enumerated on page 6, and to other food premises. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds, and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

No new circumstances arose to alter the view that there is no demand for slaughtering facilities in the Urban District at the present time.

Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Wet fish	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Tinned and packed food	..	..	..	..	..	200 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations continue to be enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in all cases provided in preceding years.

Periodic inspections are made to ensure that the premises and appliances are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year but enquiry was made in connection with two suspected cases outside the district where the suspected food had been purchased within this District.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above privately owned pool and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	21	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	10	12	-	-
TOTAL	49	38	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	-	-

Outworkers:

There are two outworkers reported in the District, employed on the making of "wearing apparel".

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year (after correction) numbered:- Measles 4 and Whooping Cough 4.

There was no other report of serious infectious disease in the district during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health. The changeover from the previously recommended first year of life apparently caused for some time a considerable drop in primary vaccination figures in North Herts., followed by improvement in mid 1964. Figures for the mid quarters of 1964 showed an acceptance rate of over 50% for the second year age. Such rate is of course much below that for children accepting oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus continued unchanged in the form of three separate injections of TRIPLE vaccine from the age of three months. An additional (fourth) 'booster' dose is delayed to around 18 months. Total returns show an acceptance rate well above eighty per cent. An additional booster dose is offered at the age of infant school entry omitting the whooping cough fraction, which when repeated at this long interval is found to cause occasional reactions.

Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, sandwiched in time between the third and fourth doses of the triple vaccine course, continues to have an equally high acceptance rate. A 'booster' dose is offered of such oral vaccine around time of infant school entry.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1964

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comment: During the year 1964 no new notification and no death from tuberculosis was recorded.

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